



July 12, 2005

The Honorable Bill Huizenga  
Chairman of the House Commerce Committee  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Huizenga:

Thank you for placing HB 5048 and HB 5057 on the agenda for tomorrow's House Commerce Committee meeting. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the public hearing and provide testimony on these proposed bills.

However, I wanted to offer this letter to express my sincere appreciation and support toward the efforts that Speaker DeRoche and members of the House Commerce Committee have made for continuing the debate and discussion on technology related economic development and investments. As you know the US lags behind other countries in Europe and Asia when it comes to making investments in R&D, and Michigan lags behind other states in generating business development in newly emerging technology sectors.

While I understand that there are several different types of proposals that have been drafted, I am pleased to see that the Executive and Legislature are engaged in creating strong economic and business development initiatives. We are all aware that Michigan has a lot to offer and is known for its manufacturing and technology companies. However we can improve our use of existing intellectual and human capital through enhanced emphasis on commercialization of the excellent research in our state. We simply must put in place the commitment and infrastructure to bring Michigan international recognition as a premiere place to start and grow technology businesses.

As the director of the Technology Center and Business Accelerator of Automation Alley, I am pleased to see that the goals of the House proposals are consistent with the Alley's mission to catalyze economic growth and diversification through more rapid and effective commercialization of innovative technology solutions. Since I cannot attend the scheduled hearing, I have asked a few members of the Alley to provide their thoughts and testify before your committee.

Enclosed are copies of their written testimony for your reference. As these bills continue to move through the process I would be happy to meet with you and/or the members of your committee for additional input and discussion. In the meantime, thank you for your interest and efforts to foster an area of development that will diversify Michigan's economy for improved growth and job creation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tom Anderson'.

Thomas E. Anderson, PhD, MBA  
Director, Automation Alley Technology Center

CC: Speaker Craig DeRoche  
Members of the House Commerce Committee